

FLD 174

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY East Germany
 SUBJECT WPL Division
 25X1C

DATE DISTR. 28 October 1953
 NO OF PAGES 3

NO. OF ENCLS.
 (LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. In August 1953, it was planned to subject all commanding officers of VPL regiments (redesignated Abteilungen (battalions)), wings (new designation unknown), flights (redesignated companies) and all good fliers to special training with Yak-18s and Yak-11s in Cottbus. This special course was to be attended by 21 officers. The training program included up to 135 take-offs and flights including local flights, aerobatics and cross-country flights. The instructors for this course were to be Germans. Nine flight instructors of the former German Army were to be distributed among the three VPL regiments. The graduates from this special course were to be charged with the flight training of the VPL division.¹
2. The 10 Yak-18s which arrived in Cottbus on 10 August, were to be marked by black-red-golden insignia. By 30 August 1953, the VPL division was equipped with about 30 Yak-18s. These aircraft were distributed among the VPL regiments and taken over by technical personnel of these regiments. However, for the time being they were to remain in Cottbus because adequate hangar space was available there. The Soviet soldiers who had transferred the aircraft to the VPL division had left again for an undetermined place.²
3. On 21 August, all VPL-soldiers who had made notes on MIG-15s had to turn in this material to the classified documents office of their units. The units had to turn in this material to the VPL section of the Ministry of the Interior on the following day.²

25X1

- a. In the event of an alert, the division headquarters will make available a command staff of 75 officers and EM; an officer company of 136 officers and EM, while 82 EM will be kept in reserve. The 1st Regt will make available a total of 23 officers and EM. The strength of alert units to be organized at Drevitz, Bautzen and Kamenz military posts was still unknown.
- b. Weapons to be distributed in the event of an alert included 120 Soviet Model-44 carbines, 235 Soviet model-38 carbines, 1 model-92 submachine gun, 60 model-38 carbines, 62 submachine guns, 101 model-FN pistols and 2 model-Maus pistols in the division headquarters; 100 model-44

25X1

25X1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET									
STATE	NAVY	X	NSRB		DISTRIBUTION				
ARMY	X	AFR	Ev	X	PR				

25X1

SECRET

25X1A

- 2 -

- carbines, 286 submachine guns, 66 model-FN pistols, 3 light machine guns, 2 heavy machine guns and 2 model-Mauser pistols for the 1st Bn.
- c. The following quantities of ammunition were scheduled to be distributed: 100 rounds per carbine; 500 rounds per submachine gun; 24 rounds per model-FN pistol; 24 rounds per model-Mauser pistol; 800 rounds per light machine gun; and 2,500 rounds per heavy machine gun.

25X1C

6. Morale among the soldiers of the VPL units in Cottbus was rather poor in August 1953. Friction between EM and NCOs of the battalion and the VPL section of the Ministry of the Interior were a daily occurrence. Soldiers of the battalion called the members of the VPL section of the Ministry of the Interior "red SS of Berlin". On one day, members of the guard unit of the Berlin VPL agencies had to force their way into the mess hall at pistol point because the soldiers of the battalion did not want to let them in.

SECRET

25X1

25X1

SECRET/

25X1A

- 3 -

25X1A 1. Comment. The redesignation of the division headquarters into Bereitschaft headquarters was known previously; it parallels measures taken for the KVP. The lines followed in the redesignation of assigned units is not yet clear. While KVP regiments have been renamed Kommandos and KVP battalion Abteilung, a VPL regiment, according to the source of the present report, has been redesignated Abteilung. This point requires further clarification. The organization of a special training course in Cottbus indicates that flight training within the VPL will henceforth be conducted by German instructors. From this it may be inferred that no VPL pilots will be trained with jet aircraft for the time being, because such training would require the employment of Soviet instructors. It appears that these Soviet instructors were returned to their fighter regiment after 17 June 1953. The Soviet instruction regiment charged with the training of VPL units moved from Cottbus to Welzow on 20 July 1953. There are several indications that this regiment has in the meantime been returned to Puetznitz. See

25X1A

25X1A 2. Comment. The arrival in Cottbus of about 30 Yak-18s shows that VPL pilots are first to be trained with training aircraft of the simplest configuration. This assumption is supported by a training scheduled for the month of September, according to which theoretical training is to be restricted to Yak-18s and Yak-11s, while type MiG-15 aircraft are not mentioned at all.

25X1A 3. Comment. The existence of alert schedules indicates that the possibility of further unrest is reckoned with. Purpose and origin of the officer company mentioned in this schedules are not yet clear. There is a possibility that officers of the Bereitschaft headquarters are assigned to this company.

SECRET/

25X1